The Niagara Advance
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Thursday, March 12, 2015

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Neighbours oppose apartment proposal

Penny Coles Niagara Advance
Jean Cochrane, a gardener whose backyard will lose all its sunshine if a four-storey apartment building is allowed behind her on Mary St., speaks at an information meeting for public input on the proposal in a crowded Virgil council chamber Monday evening.

Residents pack council chamber and town hall lobby to speak out against a four-storey building on Mary St.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The message to town planners couldn't have been stronger - respect the established residential neighbourhood on Mary St. and say no to a four-storey apartment building.

About 150 residents crowded the council chamber and lobby Monday for an information meeting held to gather public input on a proposal that requires Official Plan and zoning amendments for a 76-unit apartment building that would face on to Mary St. and cover two long, narrow residential lots that cover about an acre.

The concerns of those who spoke included the height of the building, so out of character on a street of bungalows with the occasional two-storey house, as well as the density, increased traffic at an already-congested location, parking problems, and the precedent that would be set for other developers to fill residential lots with highrises.

See Page 2

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GUINNESS

Planners promise second meeting for public input

From Page 1

Many voiced frustration over the threat of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing sending councillors, who are supposed to be the watchdogs of the town, "running scared with their tails between their legs."

That was one man's opinion of what routinely happens when council is facing the prospect of an OMB hearing.

It was pointed out when one resident asked, that this development, if approved, would be about double the density of the Anne St. apartments now under construction - a development residents and councillors opposed, but that was eventually approved, under threat of an OMB hearing.

The tension level increased as Monday's 90-minute information meeting progressed, with residents standing in every corner of the council chamber, which has about 45 chairs available for the public, and lined up several deep in the lobby.

Planners from the Town assured residents that this is early in the development process, that no decision has been made, that the planning department is legally obligated to accept an application once certain requirements have been met, that the actual planning meeting when a decision could be made will likely be in July, and that there will be another information meeting, again with the purpose of gathering public input, before then.

It will likely be held at the community centre, residents were told.

Consultant John Perry, once a planner for the town of NOTL, represented the developer, and said meetings began with the Town to discuss the project about two years ago.

The nature of those meetings are confidential, said town planning director John Henricks, "so I can't tell you of the minefields we told him to stay away from, but he's here tonight, and he shouldn't be surprised."

Also a source of exasperation from several residents who spoke is the review of the Official Plan now underway, which continues to consider the block of Mary St., across from the Royal Bank plaza, to be established residential - in other words, single family homes.

Maria Guido, a neighbour just two houses over from the lots in the proposal, recently asked the town planning department for a building permit for "a small loft," she said.

She and her husband live in a bungalow, and they wanted space for their son, but didn't want to put his bedroom in the basement.

They were asked by the Town to have a survey taken of the houses within one block in each direction, and were told their roof line couldn't go any higher than the average.

As a result of the $2,000 survey, she said, the Town said no to their loft - the average home in the neighbourhood is one storey.

"This is a slap in the face, after all we've gone through," she said

Words like "ridiculous" and "ludicrous" were used often.

One man said he was at a loss for words - other than expletives - but repeated the fear mentioned by many, that it will be just the beginning, that if this development is allowed it will be the end of the town as it is today.

"I'm dumbfounded that we have to go through this," said Michael Aitken, who admitted to supporting good development in town. "And we'll be going through it again and again and again, until we don't recognize our town. What power do we have as citizens, or as council? Are we going to have to stand in front of the bulldozers and say 'enough is enough?' "

Gracia Janes, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, said she was "heartened by this amazing response. There is a lot of history in this town, including the history of planning. Over and over again this has been established residential - end of story. Protect the neighbours, protect the heritage, and do the right thing for the town," she pleaded with town planners.

Residents were also frustrated about the lack of details they were given regarding the proposal.

"I would have liked to see a decent presentation of what this is. There's no information here," said Simcoe St. resident Ramiz Baykara, whose backyard would be overshadowed by the apartment building.

He and others with similar concerns were promised the Town planning department will do what it can to make documents, such as a traffic study, available, by posting them on their website.

Reid MacWilliam said he'd read the Official Plan, "and if this is allowed to go through, you might as well throw it out. This is really a reckless disregard for the OP. I've seen too many places with neighborhoods destroyed. If this goes through, it starts out with one and doesn't stop until the town is gutted from inside out."

Jim Reynolds told planners he's lived on Delatre St. for 35 years, "and probably been in this council chamber 135 times. You are the first lightning rod in a very explosive political situation."

A well-reasoned, intelligent approach with the planning department onside is vital, - any time the town has gone to the OMB with council opposing staff, "we've always lost," he said.

"This is an important time in planning for all of us - we're counting on you."

The developer, a NOTL resident who remained quiet and unidentified throughout the meeting, told the Advance she wants to cooperate with all the bylaws and streetscape plans of the town, and promised to do her best to alleviate concerns of residents.

Other quotes from residents:

"It's time to say no. If we have to spend our last dime fighting the OMB, let's do it."

"An existential struggle for this nation is happening here again. . . This is an assault on the First Capital of Upper Canada."

"I feel like they're building a Walmart distribution centre in the middle of Disney World. Maybe it's time to say no to the OMB. This isn't a Niagara-on-the-Lake issue. It's a foundation of democracy issue."

"It took 200 years for the town to get to where it is. If this is allowed you will ruin the town in 10 years."

"I feel like this is putting an elephant in a bed of tulips and saying "lie down and maybe no one will notice you."

"This is not going to be decided in this town. The OMB people who live in Wizard of Oz world will say it's OK."

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Former Virgil inn to become apartment building

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The owner of a Virgil hotel is hoping to turn her building into apartments.

A public information meeting at the town hall Monday to talk about the rezoning application drew questions about parking and the size of the apartments.

Planning consultant John Perry was representing Kathy Poursanidis, owner of Victoria Suites Inn on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil.

She has asked the Town for a rezoning to allow her to return the zoning on the property to residential so she can turn the six tourist rentals into six long-term rentals, she says.

She has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and can't work the long hours the hotel required - someone had to be onsite 24 hours a day.

The hotel closed at the end of 2013, and she has been working on an interior redesign since, she said.

Nothing will change from the outside - the footprint of the building remains the same, as does the landscaping.

"This conversion is internal only and nothing outside from trees to grass will change," she said.

Eleven parking spaces will be reduced to 10 spaces, she said - and the building requirements are only one per apartment. There will be one space large enough for a wheelchair ramp, and on the Henegan Rd. side of the property, if tenants need two parking spaces, there is room for two cars behind each other without taking up a second space, she said.

The building is three floors, including the basement, each floor with 1,700 sq. ft.

There will be two 450 sq. ft. units in the basement, and those on the main and upper levels will be 800 sq. ft. each, said Poursanidis, the original owner who built the hotel in Virgil in 2000.

The rezoning was changed at that time to allow the hotel - it had been residential, and had a small house on the property that had been boarded up for years.

She said more rental units are needed in the area, and she has already had "great feedback" from people who have expressed an interest in renting the apartments - she doesn't expect to have problems finding tenants.

One of the questions at the meeting, from Vic Durksen of Bridgman and Durksen, across Henegan Rd., across from the inn, was regarding parking.

There are cars from his business occasionally parked on his side of Henegan, he said, and he's concerned that overflow parking for the apartments will end up on the other side of Henegan, creating a "death trap" when vehicles come speeding around the corner from Niagara Stone Rd.

There were many times when hotel guests arrived in separate cars, said Poursanidis, but "we have never used road parking in 15 years here and still won't have the need to after the conversion."

Other questions raised at the meeting, regarding fire exits, windows and stairs, are all building and fire code issues "which we have fully satisfied, and then some," she said.

There was also a question about how six hotel rooms would provide enough space for six apartments, but there will be lots of room for a combination of one and two-bedroom units, said Poursanidis.

"The hotel rooms were huge. They all had bedrooms with king-sized beds, sitting rooms and bathrooms large enough for jacuzzis," she said.

"We have been working hard with Edwards Design for many months now these will be beautiful apartments with laundry facilities and parking."

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A 60-year-old man has died following a collision on Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil Tuesday afternoon. The collision was minor, and was the result of a medical condition, the Niagara Regional Police reported. A Camry heading north drifted into the south-bound lane and hit a Purolator delivery truck travelling south. The driver of the truck saw the Camry in time to slow down, and the collision caused little damage to either vehicle. The driver of the Camry was taken to hospital in serious condition, and was later pronounced dead. His next of kin asked that the man's name not be released, the police said.

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No need to worry, says mayor, but be alert says regional councillor

Two politicians respond to rumours of Upper Canada Lodge closing

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Niagara-on-the-Lake's two politicians with seats on regional council have differing views on whether there is a threat to Upper Canada Lodge, but both agree they'll fight if to keep it open if it ever comes to that.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte is concerned that residents are worried unnecessarily about the future of the regional long-term care home in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The facility was built in 1988 and requires renovations to meet current standards.

At last week's council meeting, Darte and Regional Coun. Gary Burroughs were asked to begin talks at the Region about maintaining services at Upper Canada Lodge, amid rumours that the Region might be considering closing it.

Darte said he'd already started the dialogue when that motion was made, and has met since with the Region's chief administrative officer Harry Schlange.

It's expected the Region will be looking at three of its long-term care homes, in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake, he said.

His sense is "we probably don't need to worry."

The issue is likely to come up for discussion, though, he added.

"Everything comes up for discussion sooner or later - what matters is the way we handle it."

But he doesn't believe there is any immediate threat to the facility, he said.

"And if there was, I guarantee I would rally the troops and not accept it. Over my dead body will they take that away."

The amount the Region would save by closing it is not enough to make it worthwhile, he said.

"I can't imagine them taking it away. The amount they would save, compared to the media flak they'd receive, wouldn't be worth it."

There have been no reports or recent discussions that lead him to think there is any reason to be fearful, he said.

"Gary and I would both be fighting tooth and nail if we had to."

The Region bas been looking at ways to finance the renovations, he said, so the cost is unlikely to be a determining factor.

Burroughs says the concern began with a report about bringing Upper Canada Lodge and a similar home in Fort Erie - both are small, at 80 beds - up to fire code.

Because of their size, they are not considered "as viable as the others in the region, which are considerably larger," he said.

The Region is, by law, required to operate one long-term care home, but now has eight across the region.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte

The discussion about closing seniors' homes "started, then stopped," Burroughs said.

"For us to have to go to St. Catharines for a seniors' home would be devastating. We need a facility in NOTL."

Burroughs says he would like a commitment from the region saying "we're not closing Upper Canada Lodge" - in fact he'd like to stop the discussion on closure of any long-term care homes, with a shortage of beds in the region.

"I'd love to think I'm over-reacting and that Upper Canada Lodge is safe," he said.

He expects the discussions will be starting soon, as the upgrades for the facility will have to be in next year's capital budget.

But even with the cost of upcoming renovations, Upper Canada is "efficient, affordable," and always full, he said.

He and the lord mayor will have to be part of those discussions, and agrees they will both fight any attempt to close Upper Canada Lodge.

"We need it here in our community," said Burroughs.

"We need to keep well-informed. We need to know what's happening, what are the current reports, what is the timing for discussions. It's our issue as long as we want it to be," he said.

Regional Coun. Gary Burroughs

"And we need to be creative. We can't sit still and wait to react once (regional) council decides to close it."

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our editorial

Town planners get an earful

Years ago, the Town planning department began holding public information meetings very early in the planning process, whenever an application for a zoning or Official Plan amendment was received.

It's not a meeting that is required by planning legislation - it's just an attempt in a town where development is often contentious to give residents their say at the beginning of the process. It gives planners and developers a heads-up about what pitfalls may lie ahead, and a chance to find compromises where possible and make the path a little smoother for all, residents included.

Monday's meeting about a proposal for a 76-unit, four storey apartment on Mary St. in the Old Town was one of those held for public input, and the planning staff heard an earful from residents who are angry, frustrated and for those who live closest to the property, scared.

The phrase "the beginning of the end" was repeated often, with slight changes in wording but not meaning.

The end of sunshine for neighbours, mostly in bungalows. The end of privacy. Possibly an end to the high real estate value they've accrued.

But that wasn't their main concern. They're worried about precedent. If these two narrow lots in the Old Town can be turned into an apartment building, there isn't a nook or cranny that is safe from development.

Residents know the history in town - developers sometimes have to compromise, but they don't walk away. They pull the Ontario Municipal Board card, and council folds. It's provincial policies that get them every time - policies that may work in larger urban centres, in cities, but not in small towns where heritage preservation is important.

Is the fear warranted? Only time and the Town planners can tell, and they aren't saying - yet.

Treasures of the Heart

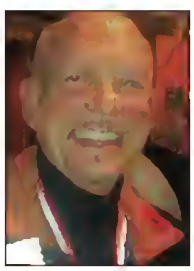
Jodi Goodwin and Jane Andres, local women who have befriended migrant farm workers and have travelled twice to Jamaica to meet their families, have organized Treasures of the Heart - a Caribbean Perspective. The collection of photographs taken by the farm workers in Niagara will be on display at the Rotary Room at the NOTL Public Library for the month of March.

Workshop helpful for aspiring writers

This past Saturday I attended a very interesting Writer's Workshop conducted by Brian Henry at the NOTL Public Library.

He is an editor, writer and creative writing instructor for over 25 years. In addition he teaches creative writing at Ryerson University and leads weekly writing workshops throughout Ontario. He has helped many of his students get published. He held the attention of a group of about 40 aspiring novice and accomplished writers through the stages of getting our work published.

His every popular website blog Quick Brown Fox provides for book reviews and a schedule of his upcoming workshops. In addition to Brian's informative session he was accompanied by Olga Filina, a literary agent with the Rights Factory in Toronto since 2013.



Bill Hamilton
NOTL Writers' Circle

She is a graduate of Humber College and was in sales and buying with several international and independent book chains. She provided guidance on the work an agent does for the prospective author and gave us insight as to when it is feasible to work with an agent and what services the author can expect from the agent in getting their work published.

The questions and participation of the group made the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. session fly by and I saw Brian still fielding questions after the session ended

We would like to thank Hermine Steinberg of the NOTL Writers' Circle for arranging this successful event. Anyone interested in joining the writers' circle can visit NOTLwriterscircle.com.

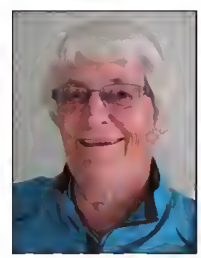
Time to register for help at Easter

Annual general meeting Wednesday is open to the public

At long last spring is almost here, and the snow is slowly disappearing.

Those who wish to sign up to receive an Easter Basket may do so starting on Friday, March 13. Pickup will be Thursday, April 2.

Thanks to Niagara United Mennonite Church for their donations of toiletries and food, to the Ba'hai community for their contribution to the food bank, and to the Men's Association of Bethany Church for their generous financial donation from their pancake and sausage supper.



Barbara Ahluwalia
Newark Neighbours

Our regular hours at our John St. barn are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. or call 905-468-3519.

For those who are interested, our annual general meeting is Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 in the Rotary Room at the community centre.

Correction

An article in last week's Advance about Ryan Gaio and his podcasts gave an incorrect website address. The correct address is www.ryanagaio.com.

The Advance apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

opinion

Orchids, tulips can bring thoughts of spring

Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

The snow is disappearing (slowly) and the birds are trying to sound enthusiastic.

Yes, spring is on its way, though it sure is dragging its heels.

I do hope you are all feeding the hirds as they have come back at the usual time expecting to find gardens with soil and seeds all over the place. Don't forget to keep that space under your picnic tahle clear so the small hirds have a safe place to eat.

Not all the nurseries are open yet, hut I did well in the grocery store - pots of daffodils and tulips, and I even found some pots of the little miniature daffs. - wonderful perfume.

My other saving grace is the garden magazines.

So come on, dust yourself off, drive to the greenhouses in Niagara Falls, hreathe deep and you can smell spring.

All the work is awaiting us, just round the corner, so plan and dream and start all the exercises now so you don't do damage once we are free of this winter.

Happy gardening.

Potted daffodils are now available, and help make us feel like spring Is on the way, says gardener Jean Cochrane.

Lots for kids to do at library during March break

It's superhero week for youngsters

Cathy Simpson
@ the library

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's superhero week at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Puhlic Lihrary.

Join us this March hreak for super activities for all ages heginning Tuesday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. with Club Rex; Pieces of Prehistory. Ages four and up will learn ahout super heroes and villains of prehistoric times including the tyrant king of dinosaurs, T. Rex.

Ages four and up can enrol in our Superhero Training Academy and learn what it takes to join the Lihrary League of Super Friends on Wednesday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m.

A Maker Space is also planned for March 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All ages are invited to drop in and visit maker stations around the lihrary to try new and favourite creative activities.

Super snacks are part of the fun at Megamind Movie Night, Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. Ages four and up are invited to wear their superhero pajamas and enjoy this PG rated movie.

Meet a real life hero on Friday, March 20 when Fire Chief Alex Burhidge of NOTL Fire & Emergency Services visits the library at 10:30 p.m.. All ages will have a chance to interact with real firefighting equipment and learn what it takes to he a real hero.

Our next Mario Kart Tournament happens on Friday, March 20 at 2 p.m.. Ages 10 and up will put their driving skills to the test for a chance to win a $25 EB Games gift card and the admiration of their friends.

March Break activities wrap up on Saturday, March 21 at 2 p.m. with a screening of Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomh.

In this third installment of the series, Night Operations Director Larry, and his museum exhibit friends, emhark on an epic journey to save the magic.

Contact the lihrary at 905-468-2023 or visit us at 10 Anderson Lane or www.notlpuhliclihrary.org for program registration details.

letters to the editor

Council should stick to existing bylaws and zoning

In response to the two letters regarding the proposed Mary St. condo (Niagara Advance, March 5), I would like to say that I completely support their stance.

Unfortunately, the precedent has already heen set hy the last council and the town administration when they rezoned Anne St. properties to allow a four storey condo to he huilt that will tower ahove and overlook properties on Anne, Victoria, Karsam, Gate and Simcoe.

After several well-attended meetings at the community centre and the council chamher where the vast majority of residents firmly told the Town that they did not want this condo project, the administration rezoned the land and the project was approved to go ahead.

The excuse was that if the developer hrought it to the Ontario Municipal Board, he would most likely win so it was prudent for the Town to make the hest deal possihle with the developer and proceed.

The proposed Mary St. project is similar and hecause of the precedent set with Anne St., it will likely be unavoidable. Watch out. This sort of development can happen near you.

Weren't the changes in the last election with the influx of new hlood on council supposed to make a difference in this area? I don't recall any developers or the OMB running for council or heing elected in the last two municipal elections.

Our council makes bylaws and zoning decisions with the direction of the community and they should stick to them.

Bill Short

Maybe Old Town should be renamed 'Old Town Sort of'

As a resident and preservationist at heart I and many other residents are outraged and deeply concerned at the devastation made hy developers in Old Town.

Guests are commenting on the "commercialism" and loss of character these persons are having on the historical value of Old Town.

The proposed Mary St. condominium is an ahsolute travesty and the last straw for those of us that love our historic town and want to try and keep the charm we have left.

Perhaps we should rename Old Town - Old Town Sort Of.

We will not stand hy and let another 4-storey condo hecome another part of a developer's dream and a residents' nightmare.

Please use good judgement and rememher the historic nature and economic impact this will have on our tourism, future town planning and the residents that live here.

There should he a time limit put on these developers so they cannot leave the properties in disrepair for long periods. This reflects poorly on our beautiful town. Greed of developers should not come at the expense of our entire community.

Gail Wardle

Province lays out plan for grape and wine industry

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

A plan to spend $75 million on the grape and wine industry over the next five years was rolled out in Niagara-on-the-Lake Thursday.

It was more than a year ago that Premier Kathleen Wynne visited Niagara College to announce a $75-million investment in a renewal of a wine and grape strategy that was created in 2009.

However, it has taken monthly meetings between provincial and industry representatives to decide how it would best be spent.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Jeff Leal was at the wine and education centre at Niagara College to talk about two new provincial programs that focus on increasing Ontario wine sales and improving vineyard production.

He also pledged support for increasing sales of VQA wines at liquor stores.

Leal is heading to China on a two-week trade mission to promote Canadian icewines, but that's just one step toward increasing export opportunities and finding new markets for Ontario wines, he said.

He pointed to a provincial decision to allow VQA wines to be sold at farmers' markets last summer that involved 76 wineries and 140 markets, with sales of more than $1 million, as a pilot project that if continued, could also increase sales opportunities.

See Page 9

Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal, right, and Niagara College president Dan Patterson sample wine from the barrel at the Niagara College Wine and Visitor Education Centre. Leal was at the college to speak of programs that are part of the province's renewed Wine and Grape Strategy. Bob Tymczyszyn/QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara-on-the-Lake EST.1781

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Dock Area: Landscape Design Concepts Community Engagement Session

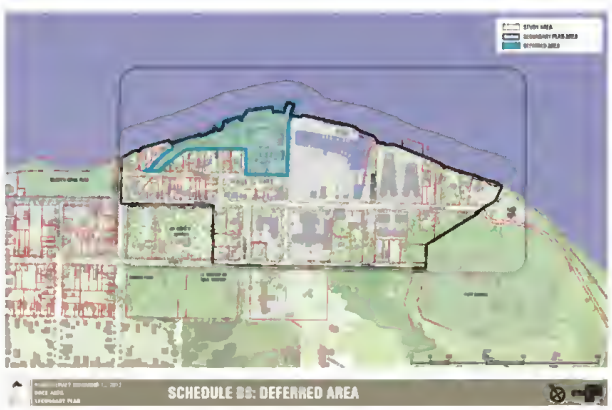
The future of the Town's Dock Area has been under consideration for several years. In December 2013, the Dock Area Secondary Plan was given final approval by the Niagara Region. However, part of that Plan was deferred to explore policy options for the public lands bounded by Melville Street to the east, the termination of the railway right of way to the west, Lake Ontario to the north, and Delater Street to the south (see map below).

The Town recently engaged a team of qualified landscape architects to provide three landscape design concepts for the public lands within the deferred portion of the Dock Area Secondary Plan.

Council now invites input and direction from the public regarding these three options. Based on the feedback received, Council will select a preferred option and direct staff to develop the appropriate policies and design for these public lands.

Please join us for a presentation of the three design concepts.

Date: **Tuesday, March 24, 2015**
Time: **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**
Place: **Community Centre, Mori Room 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake**



For more information regarding this Community Engagement Session, please contact Leah Wallace, Senior Planner, at 905-468-3061 ext. 245 or lwallace@notl.org.

March Break Camp
Ages 5 to 12 Years

What are you kids doing this March Break? How about registering them for a full week of fun and active events at the Community Centre?

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake presents a March Break Camp, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20, 2015 for children 5 to 12 years of age.

Activities include themed days, outside projects, crafts, active games and Skating Thursday.

Registration fee is $125 for the entire week and forms are available on the Town's website and at the Community Centre.

For more information, please contact 905-468-4386 or notlcc@notl.org.

Please Note:
Before and after care is also available between 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for an additional $5 per day.

Investments to make industry more competitive

From Page 8

In 2013, Wynne challenged the agri-food industry to double its growth rate and create 120,000 new jobs by 2020.

To achieve that goal, every sector including grape and wine has to move forward "with great haste," he said.

The direction to move forward has been determined with advice from winemakers, grape growers and industry leaders and "at the kitchen tables of the people of Ontario I have come to know and become good friends with," he said.

Grape Growers of Ontario chair Bill George is one of the advisers who has been at the table to work out how best to implement the wine and grape strategy, and he's pleased with the direction so far, be said.

It addresses two important issues to growers, he said — improving production in the vineyard, and increasing sales.

He says he expects to see investments in weather mitigation technology and weather data monitoring as ways to improve efficiencies in vineyards.

"Allowing us to invest in our vineyards will help us be more competitive on the world stage."

Vineyard improvement investments from the province will be performance-based, and granted to growers who are also investing, at a rate of 35% from the province to 65% from the grower, be said.

The provincial strategy has already helped increase wine sales at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, and will continue to build on that, with a target of another 6% this year, said George.

"Would I like to see double digit increases? Of course," he says, "but it's good to see the support we're getting. We have to be reasonable."

There's no other agricultural sector getting the provincial investment that the grape and wine industry is receiving, he said. "It's an important industry as far as tax dollars are concerned, and investing in it shows the government has recognized that."

Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Jeff Leal, spoke about support for the grape and wine industry at Niagara College Thursday. **Bob Tymczyszyn/QMI Agency Niagara**

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One–day student workshop at Pumphouse for March break

The Niagara Pumphouse is offering a March Break Art Workshop for children aged five to 12 on Wednesday March 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop gives children the chance to be creative, with artist-educator, Beata O'Connell introducing students to professional art supplies and tools to create finished artwork.

Outdoor activities will provide opportunities for children to build snow sculptures, run around and play.

The cost is $50 per child.

The Niagara Pumphouse will be open during March break, Monday to Friday, 12 to 4 p.m., with current exhibitions that include artwork by the youth class of seven to 12-year-olds, accomplished with O'Connell over the winter session.

Niagara Pumphouse students' artwork is on display this month.

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Katie Redekopp* 905-658-1564

14540 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY | $449,000
Located on a gentle bend on The Parkway in The Historic village of Queenston, a tranquil oasis of .8 of an acre backing onto farm land. Main floor is 2 bedrooms plus a den and 1 ½ baths. A large covered deck with expansive views of yard and large pool.
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1773 TOWNLINE RD | $560,000
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Helen Mosca* 905-650-5669
Aaron Cherney* 905-401-7915

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Perry Quinn* 905-468-4214

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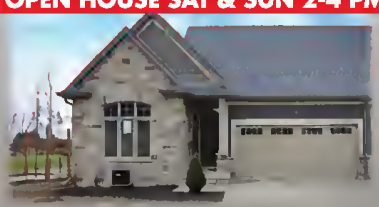

2 COBBLESTONE DR., ST. DAVIDS | $495,500
Grey Forest Homes' newest collection of bungalow towns. 2 bdrm 2 bath, main floor laundry, open concept, Elmwood kitchen. Off of Tanbark Rd , near Warner Rd. Variety of floor plans available with prices starting from $345,000
Katie Redekopp*905-658-1564

61 PRINCESS STREET | $775,000
The peace and quiet of the historic village of Queenston is the setting for this roaring 20's family home Extensive private gordens and a whimsical in-ground pool providing wonderful views of the Niagara River Also avail for rent $3,000 /mth plus util
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33 CLARENCE STREET | $349,000
English colonial style 3-bedroom house with lovely addition sits at the base of the Niagara Escarpment on a very private property.
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Property managers say Gate St. rental follows bylaws

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Eric and Janet Trogdon are property managers for 22 vacation rental homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including one that is drawing opposition from a neighbour who wants its licence revoked.

They expect the fate of the rental's future will be decided at a March 16 council meeting when a staff report will be presented, but in the meantime, wanted to talk about the issues from their perspective.

According to the Town's licensing bylaws, a vacation rental can only have three bedrooms, and neighbour J.R. Shankman said at last Monday's council meeting that the Gate St. property has been issued cottage licences twice despite the fact that there are more than three bedrooms for rent.

In addition, he said the house "disregarded the use of the amenity area," noting there is a large deck on the side of the property, visible to the street, with seating for up to eight people, and that the property owner "duped the town staff" by temporarily covering one of the bedroom windows to avoid applying for a villa licence which would allow them to accommodate more guests.

"The town must protect the residents," he said.

"The house is unkempt and overgrown with weeds," Shankman added.

Chief administrative officer Mike Galloway said issues regarding this property have been ongoing for a long time and there is a lot of documentation from the town's solicitor over the past two and half years.

He also said "There are always two sides to every story."

Coun. Betty Disero said if the property use is illegal, the town needs to step in. She had a motion approved that Shankman's concerns be referred to staff for a report to council.

The Trogdons say there are only three bedrooms in the house, and they only allow six guests at a time.

See Page 14

Janet and Eric Trogdon say the Gate St. vacation rental home they manage has only three bedrooms and is not rented out to more than six people at a time.

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691 CHARLOTTE STREET $399,000

Well maintained bungalow in a great area of town with large, gorgeous park like lot Easy walk to downtown, Commons and walking trail House needs updating but has great potential Good floor plan with sun room overlooking gardens Room for a pool. Lower level with family room, office and 4 pc bath **MLS# N30034723 Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

14621 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY $899,000

Waterfront property overlooking the Niagara River in prime location close to QEW and US border. Build your dream home on this large, treed lot in prime location. Sold as-is. The value is in the land. **Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft**

27 RED HAVEN DR $559,900

Lovely bungalow in the heart of St.Davids. Finishes include hardwood flooring, tile, carpet and granite counter tops in the kitchen. Location is close to Canada/US border and Hwy 405 to QEW. Great hiking/biking trails nearby Home is priced to sell. **Cheryl Carmichael, Kevin Stokes & Randy Armstrong.**

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14770 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY $1,495,000

This beautiful upscale bungalow has it all. Four bedrooms, 4 baths; Gourmet kitchen/Great room; Finished lower level with bar & wine cellar; Screened in veranda overlooking fabulous rear yard with outdoor kitchen and your own three hole putting green. **MLS N30022926. Victoria Bolduc.**

27 ELIZABETH STREET $499,000

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Only three bedrooms, six guests at a time, say property managers

From Page 13

The home owners want to limit the number of guests to save wear and tear on the home, which the owners have purchased as an investment for their retirement, planning on living in it eventually. In the meantime, the owners stay there occasionally when they come to visit the town with their family, said Eric Trogdon.

When the owners bought the newly-built home, the landscaping had not been finished, but they had the property sodded and extensively landscaped, Trogdon said.

And if the neighbours have seen more than six people in the home, it's likely the owners with their friends or family, he said.

There is a fourth room that is not used as a bedroom, and to comply with the town bylaw, the owners have adjusted the size of the window so the room does not qualify under building code as a bedroom, says town planning director John Henricks.

The Trogdons refer to it as a hallway - it connects two rooms - and it's furnished as a small recreation area.

Henricks says the bylaw department inspects rental homes regularly, including spot visits, and more often with any that may present "challenges."

The Gate St. rental has not been found in violation of any zoning or licensing bylaws, Henricks said.

The reference to it being issued licences twice had to do with an administrative error that was made during a time when tourist accommodation bylaws were under review and there was a moratorium on new licences, he said. Once the owners reapplied, they were issued a second licence.

Because the deck the neighbour referred to is on the side of the house, it's not considered amenity space under the bylaw, but it's still perfectly legal to use it as a deck, Henricks explained.

Vacation rentals serve an important purpose in NOTL, offering an alternative form of accommodation for visitors and bringing millions of dollars into town in tourism revenue, said Janet Trogdon, but as important to them is ensuring their rentals fit into the neighbourhood.

She turns down about 50% of the requests she gets for bookings, she says. She talks to every potential guest to get a sense of what they're looking for, and if she feels they might not fit in - if they sound like they might be looking for a party house - she turns them down.

"We want to be good neighbours, and responsible and respectful members of the community," she said.

"Vacation rentals are not going to go away, and we've worked with the community to make sure there is a good balance for residents and tourists. You can't tell from the street which homes are rentals - there are no signs, no advertising, no phone numbers posted. They blend in with the neighbourhood, and that's what we want."

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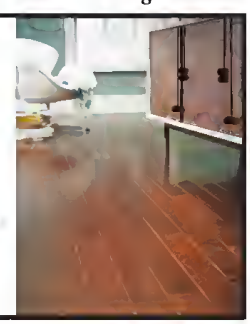

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Town camp at community centre, museum offers March break fun

The Town wants to know what your kids are doing during March break.

If you haven't planned activities to keep them busy, how about registering for a full week of activities at the NOTL community centre, organized by the Town holiday camp and aquatics coordinator Sarah Miller.

The camp is Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with after-hour care available from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. for an extra $5 a day.

It's for kids aged five to 12, with activities including theme days, outside projects, crafts and games, along with skating on Thursday.

Registration for the week is $125, and forms are available at the community centre and on the town's website at notl.org.

Check out museum and learn about local history

Students can take advantage of the break to learn about the history of their community at the Niagara Historical Museum.

The museum's permanent exhibition is called Our Story, and chronicles 9,000 years of history with artefacts that relate to the history of the town, from native history to the tourism boom of the 1970s to present day, says managing director Amy Klassen.

Younger visitors can explore the galleries with the aid of a children's guide to the museum.

Also, many local students are working on their Historica Fair projects and are researching local history topics, says Klassen.

"We usually get quite a few local kids in during March break to find out more about the historical topics they are researching, so we would like to promote the museum as a resource for school projects."

The museum is open 1 to 5 p.m. every day and if students call ahead she can pull out some resources that can help with projects, or show them artifacts on display that are relevant to their project.

For children conducting research, there is no admission fee charged.

For other visits, the fee is $5 for adults, $3 for seniors, $2 for students and $1 for children.

The museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. Call 905-468-3912 for information or visit niagarahistorical.museum.

This trunk, part of the Our Story exhibit at the museum, was owned by Eliza Morris, an orphan brought from England to stay at Maria Rye's Our Western Home. Students may find it interesting that these children were put into homes to do domestic work. The trunk would have held her only belongings as she made the journey by boat to Canada.

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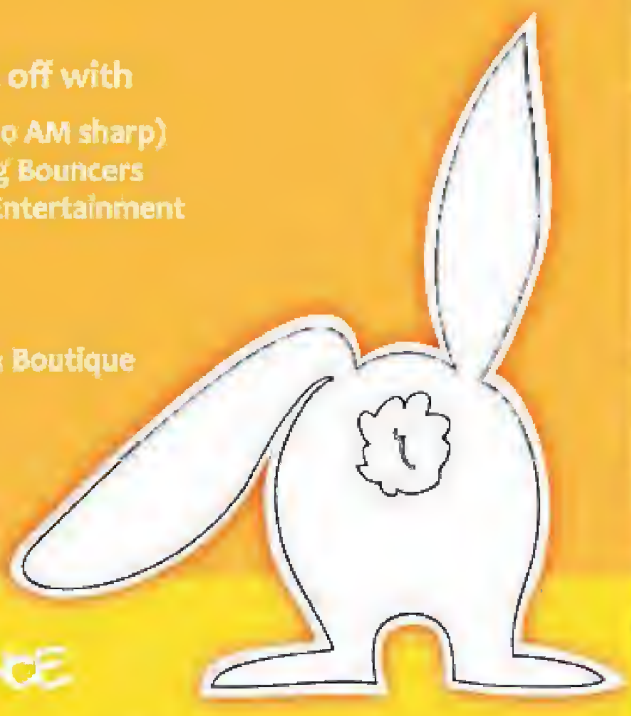

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St. Mark's looking for info about First World War veterans

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

St. Mark's Church would like some help memorializing about 70 parishioners who served their country in defence of peace during the First World War.

About seven or eight years ago a tin war memorial was found in a pile of rubbish, says Donald Combe, a member of the church's archives committee.

It was saved and put aside with other archives, and now, as part of First World War commemorations, "it's time for it to be repatriated" to a place of distinction in the church, said Combe.

But first, it requires refurbishment. Parishioner Don MacLeod, known for his "attention to detail," is doing the painstaking job of painting over the names on the plaque, which were handwritten, without the help of stencils.

The memorial "is a wonderful piece of Canadiana," says MacLeod.

"It's quintessential Canadian, decorated with paintings of maple leaves and beavers."

Then the worn plaque will be repaired before being restored to a place on the wall of the church.

And while that is taking place, Combe and Fred Habermehl, both historians and authors, are trying to find as much information as they can about the names of the 70 people - 69 men and one woman - who are listed on the plaque.

Habermehl has been going through papers at the church to find any details he can about the people on the plaque, he said.

"About many of them, we have some material. On some, we have little or nothing. If anyone knows anything at all about any of these people we'd like them to contact us so we can have a fuller record."

The plan is to publish a book about them, what they may have done during the war, whether they returned to Niagara and what role they played in the community if they did, said Habermehl.

The book will be placed on a stand under the plaque.

"We'd like to see these people of World War I not swallowed up by the mysteries of history," said Habermehl.

Most of them served in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces - the Canadian army of the First World War, which included nurses and chaplains as well as soldiers.

The woman on the plaque, Muriel Armstrong, was a nursing sister who tended to wounded soldiers during the war.

Some of the people listed returned from the war, some did not, and some settled in other areas, said Habermehl, but many are familiar family names in Niagara. Some are buried in St. Mark's Cemeter.

There are others whose names could have been included on the plaque but weren't, and he'd like to hear about them as well, so they can be mentioned in the book.

"Most were just boys, or at most young married men. All were members of St. Mark's."

And some still have family who are members of the congregation, he said.

Anyone with information about these people can call Combe at 905-932-4175, email him at donaldcombe@me.com or call the church office at 905-468-3123.

There will be a service of rededication of the plaque in June.

See Page 23

Don MacLeod is carrying out the meticulous restoration work on the tin plaque found on a pile of garbage at St. Mark's Church.

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From Page 22

The names on the plaque are as follows:

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Armstrong, C.Roy
Armstrong, J.Raymond
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Armstrong, Ivan Earl
Armstrong, Muriel
Armstrong, William Anson
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Houghton, Thomas Hadley
Houghton, Robert Charles
Hughes, James
Keith, Charles Alexander
Keith, Joseph Garland
Keith, William George
Kemsley, Arthur
Kemsley, Ernest L.
Kemsley, Raymond Clifford
Rowland, Harry F.
Lavell, Isaac
Lee, Harry Clarence
Lees, Percy Edward
Masters, Charles Keith
Mathews, Edward Ernest
Matthews, Frederick
Matthews, Thomas James
Matthews, Wilfred
May, Stanley
McArthur, Daniel Carmen
Mercer, Robert Mark
Mercer, William
Milloy, Cameron
Nelles, C.M.
Nelles, John
Nelles, Norman
Nelles, Percy
O'Melia, Henry Skelton
Onis, Alfred L.
Onis, H.W.
Pierre, Harry
Porter, John
Porter, Thomas William
Price, Ernest
Quinn, Clifford George
Richardson, Edmund
Rodgers, D.A.R.
Ross, William
Rowland, Harry F
Ryan, Gordon Blake
Sands, J. W.
Sands, Lawrence
Shepherd, O.
Stockwell, C.V.
Thomas, Reginald
Thornton, Hedley Bert
Thornton, Stewart
West, Herbert G.
Wraith, William

There are 70 names on the plaque representing St. Mark's parishioners who fought in the First World War.

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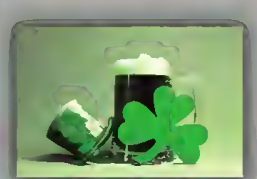
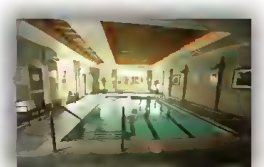

RSVP to RESERVE your SPOT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Lecture series on First World War

Niagara Camp during the First World War

The Niagara Historical Museum will commemorate the First World War with an exhibition that opens next month and a lecture series that begins next Thursday, March 19.

The war had a significant impact on Canadians and with Niagara Camp as a major military training ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake saw a huge transformation during this period, says acting managing director Amy Klassen.

The new exhibition is Life under Canvass: Niagara Camp 1915-1919, marking the history of Niagara Camp and guest-curated by local historian Dr. Richard Merritt who wrote the popular history of the Niagara commons, On Common Ground. The exhibit opens April 15.

The annual lecture series continues with a First World War theme, kicking off March 19 at 7:30 p.m. with Joan Draper talking about Vera Brittain: Volunteer Aid Detachment in World War One.

Brittain was a young nursing volunteer whose experiences at the front greatly influenced her writing career.

Although she trained to be a nurse's assistant, once she got to the front, she found herself assisting with severe surgery, gas victims and amputations.

Brittain, along with her books and experiences, has been honoured with a TV series on PBS.

Her life and times have also been illustrated in a film that has just opened in the UK.

The museum's lectures continue on the third Thursday of each month until October with the following topics and speakers: Paul Valasek will talk about Haller's Polish Army in France 1917-1921; David Schimmelpennick will speak on Russia's Great War; Jonathan Vance will offer A Soldier's Camera, with candid glimpses of the First World War from Niagara; Elizabeth Vlossak will speak on Shot at Dawn: British, French and German deserters; Richard Merritt will talk about Niagara Camp, 100 years later; David Web will offer One Jam Berry After Another, about the Ontario Farm Service Corps and the Farmerettes; and Andy Robertshaw will speak about filming the War Horse movie.

Admission to all lectures is $10 for free for Niagara Historical Society members. Seating is limited so registration is required.

For more information visit www.niagarahistorical.museum or call 905-468-3912.

The Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. and is open daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to the end of April.

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$150M price tag put on GO expansion to Niagara

Rob Houle
QMI Agency Niagara

It's a lot of money, but it's a lot less than initially projected.

A report spearheaded by Niagara Region paints a rosier picture than a 2011 report on the cost of extending daily GO train service to Niagara Falls. Whereas the 2011 environmental assessment put the potential cost at $1 billion, the Region's "Phase 2" business case to be presented to the premier by month's end presents a more palatable $100 million to $150 million price tag on the project. The EA cost estimate included the cost of burrowing a rail line below the Welland Canal, something proponents of expansion say is not necessary.

Representatives on the Niagara GO file from local municipalities and the Region were told in a meeting with Wynne in October in which they presented a preliminary business plan to get back to her by the end of the first quarter of 2015 with a more comprehensive business plan that includes technical details and answers scheduling issues with canal shipping.

"The meeting with the premier was probably a pivotal meeting for us because she was quite direct in giving direction to her staff, the minister of transportation and others, saying get all the people in the room together and share information," St. Catharines chief administrative officer Dan Carnegie said during a media briefing Tuesday morning at Niagara Region headquarters in Thorold. The briefing with Carnegie, Region CAO Harry Schlange, Niagara Falls CAO Ken Todd and Region communications staff was held to give an update on Niagara's collective push for the daily service.

That direction from Wynne, Carnegie said, led to meetings at Queen's Park with members of her staff, Ministry of Transportation staff and the presidents of GO and Metrolinx.

He said those meetings, in addition to ones with the St. Lawrence Seaway Corp. regarding crossings of the Welland Canal, were intake sessions, listening to the concerns of each stakeholder "to get a good idea what the issues were," Carnegie said. "Also to understand some of their costing models for them to figuring out how much this whole project would cost and what it would look like to bring GO to Niagara."

Phase 2 of the approach to getting daily GO train service involved "drilling down on how to make this financially and technically viable," said Matt Robinson, the Region's associate director of corporate communications.

He said since the meeting with Wynne, the Niagara GO collective has been "data mining. And that's where we find ourselves today, is reviewing the results of that. And we're still in the process of conducting that study."

Schlange reiterated that getting GO train to Niagara Falls is the No. 1 priority for the Region and Niagara's 12 municipalities, and a team consisting of the mayors, Region Chair Alan Caslin, Schlange and the CAOs from Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines was put together to "really be that working group on the ground" pushing the GO file forward.

"One of the things we had going for us early in the game is we realized there is a lot with didn't know, and that we weren't experts at, so we looked at getting some expertise to help us with moving the technical side of this project forward," Carnegie said.

That expertise has come in the form of retired GO Transit president Gary McNeil, who was recently hired as a consultant.

"We have enough politicians in the region working on that side, but we needed that technical piece to be able to comeback with a business plan that when given to the premier had some substance to it. So that's the role he's been playing for us," Carnegie said.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, March 15th
NO Sunday School today
Worship Service 10:45 am
Message by Pastor Reid Cooke
The Majesty of Christ - Part 2
"His Self Understanding"
Childcare provided during service

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Nursery and Sunday School
Come and celebrate God's love for us all

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ In Our Community"
10:00 am German Service
Message by Isaak Eitzen
11:00 am Worship Service
Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
"Breaking Strongholds"
II Corinthians 10:1-5
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, March 15th
Worship Service 10:00 am
(childcare provided mid-way through service)
Message by: Andrew Thiessen
Title: A New Way to Live

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Founded 1792
Sunday Services
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH
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10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road
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trinitynotl@cogeco.ca
10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter

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Naw Ruz – Bahá'í New Year
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905-468-0834 www.ca.bahai.org notlbahais@gmail.com

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10:30 am Worship Service
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Ghost Stories:
Fruit of the Spirit
Jim Ball
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

Amazing Grace United Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
Director of Music: Esther Giesbrecht
222 Victoria Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
905 688 3958
Sunday, March 15th
current series
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www.lifeabundantniagara.com

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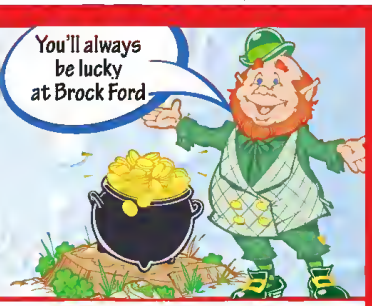

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Award-winning journalist and author Linden MacIntyre speaks to a sell-out Wine & Words crowd about his latest novel, Punishment, at Stratus Vineyards recently. The final evening of this year's NOTL Public Library's author series is at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery April 1 with mystery novelist Brad Smith. Tickets are on sale at the library.
Photo by Elena Galey-Pride

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADVANCE Notices

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March 13
4:30 till 7:00 pm

Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St. Davids

NEW TO THE AREA?

NOTL Newcomers Club invites women who have moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake within the past 3 years to join our dynamic group of nearly 250 women. For info contact:
Irene Rutt at 905-933-5014
irenemrutt@gmail.com / notlnewcomers.com

NEWARK NEIGHBOURS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 25, 2015 @ 1:30 pm
NOTL Library, Rotary Room

DATED at Niagara-on-the-Lake
this 1st day of March, 2015.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Teresa J. Bell, Secretary

KID'S STUFF SWAP & Book Sale

C.A.R.E. for NOTL schools

Saturday, March 28, 2015, 11 am - 1:30 pm
St. Marks Parish Hall

CLEAR OUT THE CLOSETS!
Bring gently used kids' clothes, toys, sports equipment to the swap. Swap Meet details at: **carenotl.ca**

BBQ, BAKE & BOOK Sale!
To donate books for the sale, contact: **careniagara@gmail.com** • Info: **careniagara.ca**

Place your
Coming Event
Community Calendar Social here,
with or without a border, colour, graphics optional.
Include your logo!

Deadline: Monday 5pm
Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

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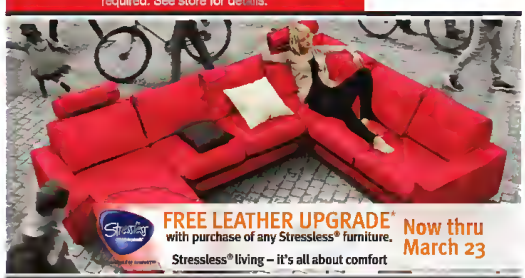

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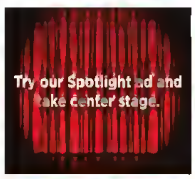

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Houses for Rent | Houses for Rent

319 Mary Street Niagara on the lake. 2 bedroom , 1 bath, LR, DR, Kit & enclosed Porch with large back yard. Available now $1200/m +util. 905 321 2090

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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Personal Notices

I am an older lady, a born again Christian who would like to meet up with another Christian lady that would be interested in getting together and discussing the Bible scriptures. jeanjoy0625@gmail.com

Thank You Notes | Thank You Notes

I would like to thank my family and friends for thair support in my affort at tha Ontario Indoor Rowing Championships for 2,000 metres, held at Ridlay Collaga on Saturday, Fabruary 28, 2015. I came in first for the 70 - 74 age category with a tima of 8.40.0. It was a great day with more than 700 entries in all categorias. Ona gentleman was 84 with a time of 8.54.0, unbelievable for this age group.

Thank You! Don Smith

Obituaries | Obituaries

FLYNN, Mary - Mary Josephine Flynn (Registered Nurse) born April 12, 1924 passed away peacefully on March 5, 2015 at Upper Canada Lodge, NOTL, Ontario. Mary was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario and grew up in the Niagara area before starting her nursing career. After training at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Mary worked in several hospitals throughout Canada and the United States, including: GNGH in Niagara Falls, Ontario and New York; Washington D.C.; Truro, Nova Scotia; and Moosonee Ontario. Mary leaves two sisters, Patricia Flynn, in Ottawa, and Stella Rodgers in NOTL; nieces and nephews, Maureen Singh, Kathleen Hall, Kevin King, David King, Michael Rodgers, David Rodgers and Cam Rodgers. She also leaves old friends, Rose and Mel Lalonde and others. A special thank you to Marianne, the nurses and staff at Upper Canada Lodge and Dr. Bertie for the loving care provided to Mary over the last several years. Condolences should be sent to **dvdrdgrs@gmail.com**. In keeping with Mary's wishes cremation and interment have taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the charity of your choice in Mary's name and can be made through **HETHERINGTON AND DEANS FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 5176 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls. Online tributes and condolences may be made at:
www.hetheringtonanddeans.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituaries | Obituaries

BARANOSKI, Vera - On March 7, 2015 at Heritage Place at the age of 89. Predeceased by her son Peter and husbend Emil. Survived by her son David and his wife Kathy and daughter Cynthia. Sister of Olga. Vera will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by family and her many friends. By Vera's request, cremation has taken place with no service or visitetion. Special thanks end love to the staff and residents of Pleasant Manor and Heritage Place and thank you to Dr. David Reimer and Dr. Luigi Ricciardi. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Pleasant Manor. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

Miss me but let me go
When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
Miss me a little but not for long
For this is a journey
We all must take and
Each of us go alone
When you are lonely-
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me but let me go

MORGAN
Service • Value • Family

Death Notices | Death Notices

CARDAS, Doris M., on Monday, March 9, 2015, in Torrance California. Doris is survived by husband Ben, daughter Jennifer, son Jeffrey (Sherry), granddaughter Harlee, sister Ginny (Don) Slingerland, brothers Ken (Gloria) and Gerry Petrunick and many nieces and nephews. Funeral arrangements later.

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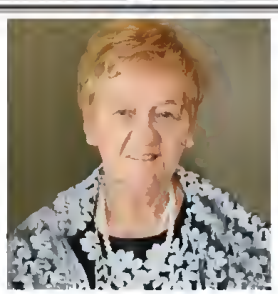
Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks
Births | Celebrations | More

In Memoriams **In Memoriams**



STELLA ZABEK

In Loving Memory
of a dear mother and grandmother
who passed away
March 16, 2014

One year has passed and not a day goes by that you are not on my mind.
I miss your company every day and the fun times we had together.

Love you Mom,
your daughter
Christine
and family.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Sports

Editor Penny Coles
905–468–3283, ext. 103 penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

The Niagara Rangers Development Group wrapped up its season at Virgil Public School Saturday with a mini ball event for 21 local boys and girls in Grades 1 to 4 who have been learning basketball skills. Children and parents participated in drills and games, but the highlight involved the Ontario Basketball Mega Hoops event with each child receiving a basketball and T-shirt. The Rangers will be running a spring league for their development group. For more information email gkroeker05@gmail.com.

NOTL Minor Hockey
Early Bird Registration
SAVE $75

When:
Saturday March 28, 2015
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday March 29, 2015
1:00 - 3:00 pm

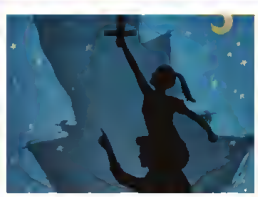
Where:
Virgil (MCU) Arena
Hockey Room
1565 Creek Road Virgil

Check out our rates on our web page
www.notlhockey.com
HOCKEY SCHOOL RATES HAVE DECREASED TO ONLY
$195!!!
(Lowest in the region)
Offering Bantam Non Contact & Midget Non Contact House League this year!!!

On-Line registration
Where: www.notlhockey.com
How: Simply click on the open registration tab at top of our home page as of March 28th!!

As of April 8, 2015, regular rates apply.
As of August 1, 2015, a late fee will apply.

NIAGARA NEIGHBOURS SPRING SPECIALS
$42 TICKETS
$22 FOR STUDENTS
On select performances



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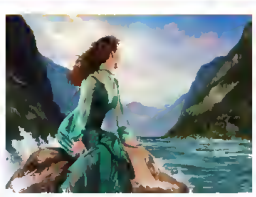
Pirates with panache, mind-blowing mermaids, and a boy and girl destined to meet and part. The gloriously re-imagined story of the journey to Neverland.
APRIL 11, 12, 18, 19, 21, 25, MAY 12 - 2PM
APRIL 17, MAY 6, 9, 15 - 8PM



THE LADY FROM THE SEA
Award-winning playwright Erin Shields' fresh take on Ibsen's rarely produced Romance.
MAY 8 - 2PM
APRIL 30, MAY 3, 7, 9 - 8PM

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A family secret, a surprise visitor and a smitten dentist all collide at the seaside in Bernard Shaw's airy comedy.
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Marotta qualifies for provincial championships

A second-place finish has earned Kyra Marotta a place in the provincial skating championships this weekend in Brampton.

Kyra Marotta is off to the provincial skating championships in Brampton this weekend.

Photo submitted

Sixteen skaters from the NOTL Skating Club competed in the 2015 Western Ontario STARSkate Championships held in Fort Erie.

Marotta placed second in the Juvenile Ladies U14 event which qualifies her to advance to the Skate Ontario Championships

Maddyne Sullivan also earned a second place in the under-10 age category.

Zoe Abraham and Ashleen Hale came third in their divisions.

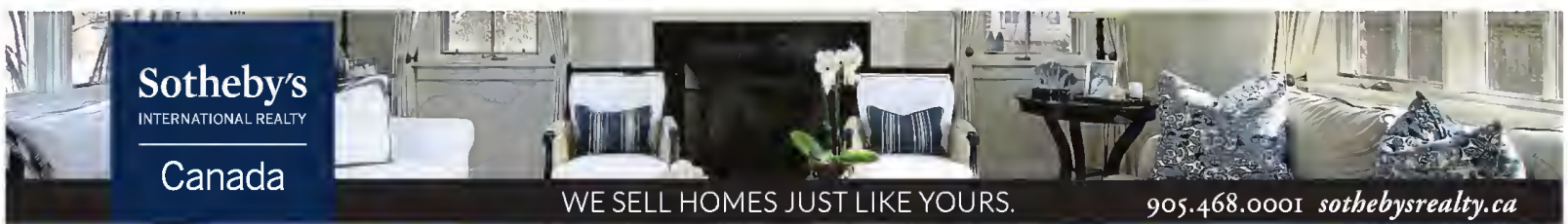
Eva DeLuca, Cameron Kipp, Abby Johnstone, Marin McLaughlin, Rachael Hunter, Lexie Madsen, Kristin Cripps, Alyssa Hunter, Avery Royer, Katharine Laughton and Cierra Perron had top 10 finishes in their event, while Addie Huffman and Tess Roberts-Ramos came in 11th in their divisions.

Practices are now in full speed for the club's upcoming Showcase Gala – NOTL Skates the World – to be held at 7 p.m. Friday, March 27 at the Meridian Credit Union arena in Virgil.

Tickets are $5, and free for children under the age of two.

Sixteen members of the NOTL Skating Club competeted in the Western Ontario STARSkate Championships recently.

Photo submitted



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Anna & Jaime da Silva* **905.321.0449**

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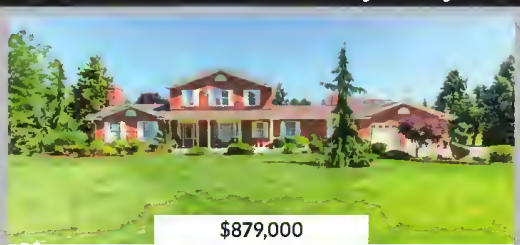
Nancy Brazeau*+** **905.371.4234**



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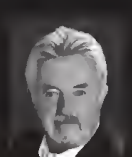

Gary Snider
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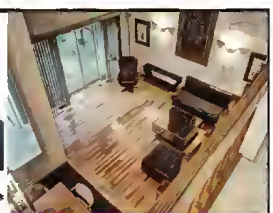
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